## DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

October 3, 1963

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A copy of the attached has been given to Mr. Ball only.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

3 October 1963

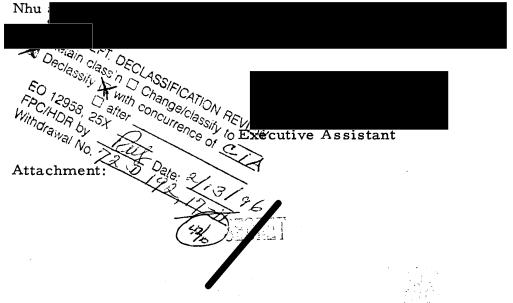
MEMORANDUM FOR:
The Honorable Dean Rusk
The Secretary of State

Mr. McCone asked that the following message be brought to your attention:

Attached is a copy of a message from my representative in Saigon, Mr. John Richardson.

Mr. Richardson's conversation with Ambassador Lodge concerns a message which I sent out yesterday summarizing the story about CIA in the 2 October edition of the Washington Daily News. I reiterated my willingness to make any changes in station personnel which the Ambassador might desire and asked the Ambassador for his specific views and recommendations.

The other matter referred to in paragraph five of Mr. Richardson's message has to do with a contact with



1. YOUR MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO LODGE MORNING 3 OCTOBER IN SEALED ENVELOPE TO BE OPENED BY HIM ONLY. LATER IN AFTERNOON, WHILE SEEING LODGE ON ANOTHER MATTER REFERRED TO BELOW, I MENTIONED THAT NEIL SHEEHAN OF UPI HAD TELEPHONED ME ABOUT STARNES STORY AND THAT I HAD ANSWERED SHEEHAN WITH "NO COMMENT". LODGE SAID THERE WAS NO TRUTH TO STARNES ARTICLE HAD BEEN NO DISREGARD OF ORDERS. NO FLAT REFUSAL TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS, NO FRUSTRATION OF PLAN OF ACTION WHICH HE BROUGHT WITH HIM FROM WASHINGTON SINCE HE BROUGHT NO PLAN OF ACTION FROM WASHINGTON", AND HAD BEEN NO DRAMATIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN HIM AND ME. LODGE ADDED HE FELT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN THE TWO OF US BUT SAID HE DID NOT WANT "YES MEN" AROUND HIM. HE SURMISED STARNES COULD HAVE PICKED UP STORY ALMOST ANYWHERE OR HAD PUT IT TOGETHER FROM BITS AND PIECES CONTRIBUTED BY OTHER REPORTERS AT CARAVELLE BAR. LODGE SAID WE WOULD PROBABLY ALL "BURN OURSELVES OUT HERE SOONER OR LATER" BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE RESULT OF TRYING TO CARRY OUT PATRIOTIC DISCHARGE OF DUTIES IN SOUTH VIET NAM.



- 2. IT SEEMS PERFECTLY CLEAR THIS STORY COULD NOT HAVE ORIGINATED FROM ANYONE IN SAIGON STATION. WE CANNOT SPECULATE WITH ANY SENSE OF CERTAINTY ABOUT ACTUAL SOURCE OR SOURCES OF STARNES STORY. HAVE CALLED IN STATION SECTION CHIEFS AND ACQUAINTED THEM WITH STORY CONTENT REF. THEY WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT STATION PERSONNEL COMPLETELY AVOID COMMENT ON THIS MATTER TO PRESS OR TO ANYONE ELSE. HAVE ALSO ASKED THAT STATION PERSONNEL AVOID MERE SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE SOURCE OR SOURCES OF THIS STORY IN CONVERSATION WITH PERSONS OUTSIDE OR INSIDE STATION.
- 3. GENUINELY BELIEVE THAT SAIGON STATION HAS ACHIEVED EXTREMELY HIGH DEGREE OF COORDINATION, COOPERATION, AND GOOD FEELING WITH PERSONNEL OF ALL OTHER MISSION COMPONENTS. ALSO FEEL THAT MISSION HEADS WOULD ATTEST TO THIS FULLY IF QUERIED.
- 4. DEEPLY APPRECIATE CONFIDENCE YOU EXPRESS IN ME HOWEVER, I CAN ONLY REGRET MOST KEENLY DAMAGE BEING DONE TO GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY BY THIS KIND OF REPORTING AND UNDERSTANDABLY I WOULD WISH TO FACILITATE WHATEVER REMEDIAL MEASURES YOU DEEM NECESSARY.



THAT HE HAD DESIGNATED ME TO SEE NGO DINH NHU PER
PARA 2, DIR 27233. WISHED TO INFORM LODGE THAT WE HAD
TELEPHONED NHU'S OFFICE FOR EARLIEST MEETING WITH
NHU. WE GALLED NHU'S OFFICE AGAIN STATING THAT MATTER
WAS URGENT. REPLY WAS THAT NHU COULD POSSIBLY SEE ME
4 OCTOBER BUT THAT THIS WAS NOT CERTAIN. IN OTHER WORDS,
I INFORMED LODGE THAT NHU MIGHT NOT SEE ME IN TIME TO
ACHIEVE MISSION OBJECTIVES SOUGHT. LODGE EXPRESSED
HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THIS FACTOR BUT SAID HE STILL THOUGHT
I WAS BEST SITUATED TO MAKE THE ATTEMPT. WE WILL MAKE
ANOTHER EFFORT 4 OCTOBER TO SECURE EARLIEST POSSIBLE
MEETING WITH NHU.